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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

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COUNTRY

East Germany China

DATE DISTR. 28 October 1955

SUBJECT

VEB Werk fuer Fernmeldewesen
Tube Production and Possible Export
of Tubes for China

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Of an unspecified number of 9" television picture tubes which were imported from the USSR by VEB Werk fuer Fernmeldewesen, a total of 1,500 were recently declared rejects. The inner wiring and other metal parts of the tubes were taken out and used as scrap metal.
2. Under the overall tube production program, production of the following tube types was discontinued at VEB Werk fuer Fernmeldewesen: EAA-91, EBF-80 and UBF-80. These tube types from now on will be produced by VEB Roehrenwerk Anna Seghers, Neuhaus am Rennweg, Thuringia. One of the reasons given for transferring this production is that there were not sufficient orders to warrant production of these tubes at VEB Werk fuer Fernmeldewesen; however, the Thuringian plant reportedly has no substantial orders for these types on hand either. Raw material in stock at VEB Werk fuer Fernmeldewesen, which had been ear-marked for the production of these tubes, was also turned over to the Thuringian plant.
3. Among the most important export orders received lately at the VEB Werk fuer Fernmeldewesen is one for a total of 180,000 units of the following tube types: PL-81, PL-83, PCC-84. Tubes ear-marked for this order are not to be given the plant trade mark stamp, "WF" in a diamond frame. Reportedly, these tubes are to be exported to an unidentified Far Eastern country, rumored to be Communist China. The plant management seems quite concerned about the prompt execution of this export order. As there were difficulties in the procurement of raw materials for this order, the Main Administration of Radio and Telecommunications Technology (RFT) of the Ministry for General Machine Construction was called in to iron out the complications in this priority order. Some of the material for this order is to come from VEB Berliner Gluehlampen Werk (BGW), but the latter has not been able as yet to supply the required wire. As a makeshift arrangement, VEB Werk fuer Fernmeldewesen is attempting to make use of thicker wire, which it tries to thin out by drawing. In most cases the results are negative, as the wire breaks.
4. 12" picture tubes: VEB Einheit, Weisswasser² was to furnish 20,000 12" picture tubes during the fourth quarter of 1955 as per the amended 1955 production plan. This order has now been reduced to 9,000 for the entire fourth quarter of 1955. It is intended instead to switch gradually to 14" picture tubes, and the factory at Weisswasser is to supply 1,000 units of the 14" item during September 1955. One

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[redacted]

of the reasons given by the plant officials for the switch from 12" to 14" tubes is the extremely poor quality of the 12" housings furnished by Czechoslovakia. In many shipments from Czechoslovakia there were rejects as high as 30 percent.

5. Nothing definite is known as yet about picture tube production for 1956 or about the initiation of 17" picture tube production.

[redacted] Comments:

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1. This sentence is submitted as it was received [redacted] the WF plant was to manufacture the 9" tubes on the fifth floor of the Tube Plant "as before." The 9" tubes in the present report, described as imported from the USSR, may possibly be WF tubes which were rejected by the USSR and returned to the manufacturer.

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2. V&B Spezialglaswerk "Einheit," Weisswasser.

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